

**COMMISSIONER'S
MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 12, 2011 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Petersburg Health Department
Conference Room
301 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803**

Members Attending In Person: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Melissa Canaday; Jené A. Carter, BS; Gary Crum, PhD, MPH; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Carl A. Gibson, MD, FACP; Linda L. Redmond, PhD; Cecily Rodriguez, BS; Michael Royster, MD, MPH; and Theresa Teekah, BS, MA, CMPH; Via Polycom: Sandra Cherry, PhD;

Members Absent: Tia Campbell, RN, MSN, NCSN; Portia Lynne Cole, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Tonya Davis, MS, MBA; Elizabeth M. Giles, PhD, PT; Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, RN, MSN; Tinh duc Phan; Edward A. Scott, PhD; and Claudia M. Tellez, MPH

Staff Attendance: Susan Triggs, MPH, RN;

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order by Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MHHEAC Chair. MHHEAC members present were advised that five members were no longer on the committee for varying reasons. Newly appointed members -- Jené Carter, Linda Redmond, and Cecily Rodriguez -- were asked to introduce themselves and tell those present what organizations they represent.

2. Agenda

The agenda was adopted by MHHEAC members

3. Minutes

The April 12, 2011 minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Statement of Commissioner

Dr. Remley was not able to attend the meeting and asked Dr. Royster to present on her behalf. Dr. Royster read a report from Dr. Remley regarding Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) funding. He stated that the CDC will cut funding by 15%. As part of the report, MHHEAC was requested to make recommendations regarding how to reach communities of color and other diverse and hard to reach populations to disseminate information to partners regarding emergency preparedness. In this way, MHHEAC is helping VDH to assure that diverse communities are included in emergency preparedness efforts. MHHEAC members voiced concerns about funding for free clinics and for rural community health clinics.

MHHEAC previously provided information on how to reach diverse communities, but it is understood that reaching out to hard to reach populations is an ongoing process. MHHEAC members are asked to “reach out to communities you represent”. Dr. Addo-Ayensu provided an overview from the Fairfax, Virginia H1N1 outreach to diverse communities. Cecily Rodriguez led a discussion about the diminished capacity of state organizations and the fact that this means we must work with communities to help them increase their capacity. Dr. Crum talked about the strategic methods needed to reach homeless populations and the rural poor where there are no organizations within the communities to target with information. He identified the importance of engaging peer networks as a strategy to reach these groups.

5. Healthy Baby Begins with You Peer Education Program

Dr. Gibson provided this report for Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson in her absence. This is a Peer to Peer Program which educates and empowers young people to talk to peers regarding issues that will help decrease rates of pregnancy among this age group. In January 2011, a 2-day program was held at Norfolk State University. Attendees were asked to go back to schools and devise programs to educate their peers. The program is funded by the National Office of Minority Health which also funds programs in Memphis, Tennessee and Mississippi. An MHHEAC member inquired about the effectiveness of the program. Dr. Gibson advised that, Ethlyn Gibson has that information and will report to everyone at some point in the future. The program for Hampton University and Norfolk State is on hold for the summer since students at both universities are on summer break.

An MHHEAC member asked what the next steps will be regarding this initiative. VDH knows that a meeting is being convened the week of August 15-19, 2011. The schools that are being invited are Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Richmond, Virginia Union University, Virginia State University, J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College, John Tyler Community College and St. Paul’s College. The National Office of Minority Health will be supporting this training by providing the materials, assistance with registration, possible speakers if needed, promotion efforts, certificates of completion and follow-up and evaluation. The students from this training will be participating in the national effort and will be included in the national evaluation.

Several possible faculty advisors have been identified and recruitment of students will start at the beginning of the fall semester. The training will be scheduled either late fall semester or early spring semester as determined by the college representatives. It is hoped that each school will send at least one team of 10 students with 1 faculty advisor. Some of the larger schools such as VCU may send more than one team as both the School of Medicine and the School of Social Work have expressed interest in participating.

6. Determining MHHEAC Priorities

MHHEAC members in attendance began the process of determining which priorities they would champion for the coming year. Subcommittee Chairs presented overviews of

the ideas discussed in their meetings. Melissa Canaday presented for the Community Engagement Subcommittee, Susan Triggs presented for the Data Subcommittee in the absence of Tonya Davis, and Gary Crum presented for the Policy/Legislative Subcommittee. There was vigorous discussion around MAPP (Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnership), Health Reform, and HIV/AIDS. Among potential priority areas considered were: MAPP, Health Reform, Identifying local health district coalitions for initial focus, Re-Introducing the MAPP process as a priority VDH-wide, Membership, Diabetes, Heart Disease/Stroke, Obesity, Infant Mortality, and HIV/AIDS. Each area was weighed against criteria that included: Relevance to social determinants of health; relevance to MHHEAC member partners; universality; whether they were strategic and flexible; funding needs and funding availability; and their usefulness for engaging broader stakeholders.

Members decided to continue the MHHEAC focus on MAPP and to also focus on two additional high priority areas. Infant Mortality Reduction, a VDH priority, will be one of the priority areas. Members were asked to vote for two of the following areas, one of which will become the third priority area:

1. Chronic Disease
2. HIV/AIDS
3. Obesity

Members who did not attend the meeting are asked to vote on the priority areas by e-mailing Susan Triggs at susan.triggs@vdh.virginia.gov with their choices by August 12, 2011. MHHEAC focus areas will be announced at the next meeting.

7. OMHHE Updates

Dr. Royster provided a handout of updates regarding health equity initiatives, from national, state and local perspectives.

8. Announcements

There were no announcements.

9. Public Comment

Eight members of the public were present. Rose Wilbur Coddington, Director of Patient Services at Falls Church Healthcare Center, Kathy Greenier, Director of the Patricia M. Arnold Women's Rights Project at ACLU of Virginia, and Angela Sutton, Senior Health Policy Associate, Black Women's Health Imperative, spoke to MHHEAC members about Virginia Senate Bill 924 and the effect it can have on abortion rights. In particular, they shared their concerns that over regulation of clinics that perform abortions could have a disproportionate impact on low income women and women of color because such women depend more on these clinics, not just for abortion services, but for routine family planning services as well. Dr. Addo-Ayensu thanked them for their comments.

10. Meeting Adjourned

The NEXT MHHEAC MEETING is scheduled for:

Date: October 11, 2011

Time: 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Location: Petersburg Health Department, 301 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803

Future MHHEAC Meeting Dates

December 13, 2011 (optional)

All meetings take place from 11:00 am-2:00 pm unless otherwise stipulated

Questions or special needs – please contact: Susan Triggs, Health Equity Specialist – 804-864-7429 – susan.triggs@vdh.virginia.gov

Minutes prepared by: Susan Triggs, MPH, RN

Minutes reviewed by: Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Chair